



Economic Overview And Outlook: Arkansas

JOBS

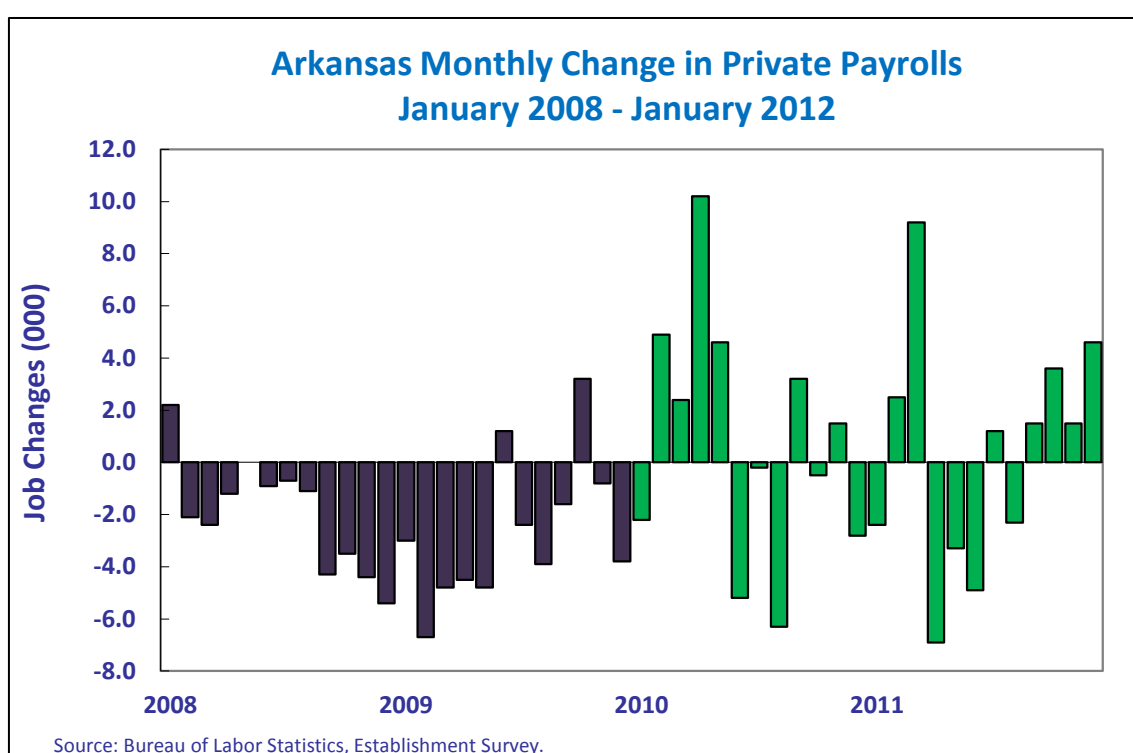
- Including January, the private sector has gained jobs nationwide for 23 consecutive months.
- In Arkansas, private sector employment fell by 6.1 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 1.3 percent.
- In Arkansas, employees in the manufacturing, construction, and information services sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Arkansas have experienced the greatest employment increases: mining; trade, transportation and utilities; and leisure and hospitality.*
- As the economy continues its emergence from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2010 and 2020. The largest gains over this period are expected to occur in the healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and retail trade sectors. Job gains in the goods-producing sector of the economy will be led by the construction and mining industries while the number of manufacturing jobs is expected to fall.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Arkansas was 7.6 percent in January 2012, up 2.5 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 8.2 percent in July 2011.
- 105,000 Arkansas residents were counted among the unemployed in Arkansas during January 2012.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 4.6 percent. Most recently, in the 3rd quarter of 2011, total personal income is 0.2 percent below its 4th quarter of 2007 level.



- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Arkansas was \$29,190.00 in the 3rd quarter of 2011, up from \$29,022.90 in the 3rd quarter of 2009.

HOUSING

- After peaking in the first quarter of 2007, national home prices declined by 16.6 percent over 17 quarters. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the most recent quarter, national home prices have risen by 1.4 percent. In Arkansas, home prices fell by 5.6 percent over 9 quarters from their peak in the first quarter of 2009. Since the second quarter of 2011, home prices in Arkansas have risen by 1.1 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Arkansas was \$120,560 in the second quarter of 2010, compared to \$180,176 nationwide.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2011, 2.0 percent of all mortgages, including 6.0 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Arkansas.
- Housing starts in Arkansas totaled 4,950 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in January 2012, an increase of 60.7 percent from December.
- Within the South census region, which includes Arkansas, sales of new single-family homes totaled 188,000 units in January 2012, an increase of 9.3 percent from December. Sales of existing single-family homes increased 2.7 percent to 1,540,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from December to January 2012.

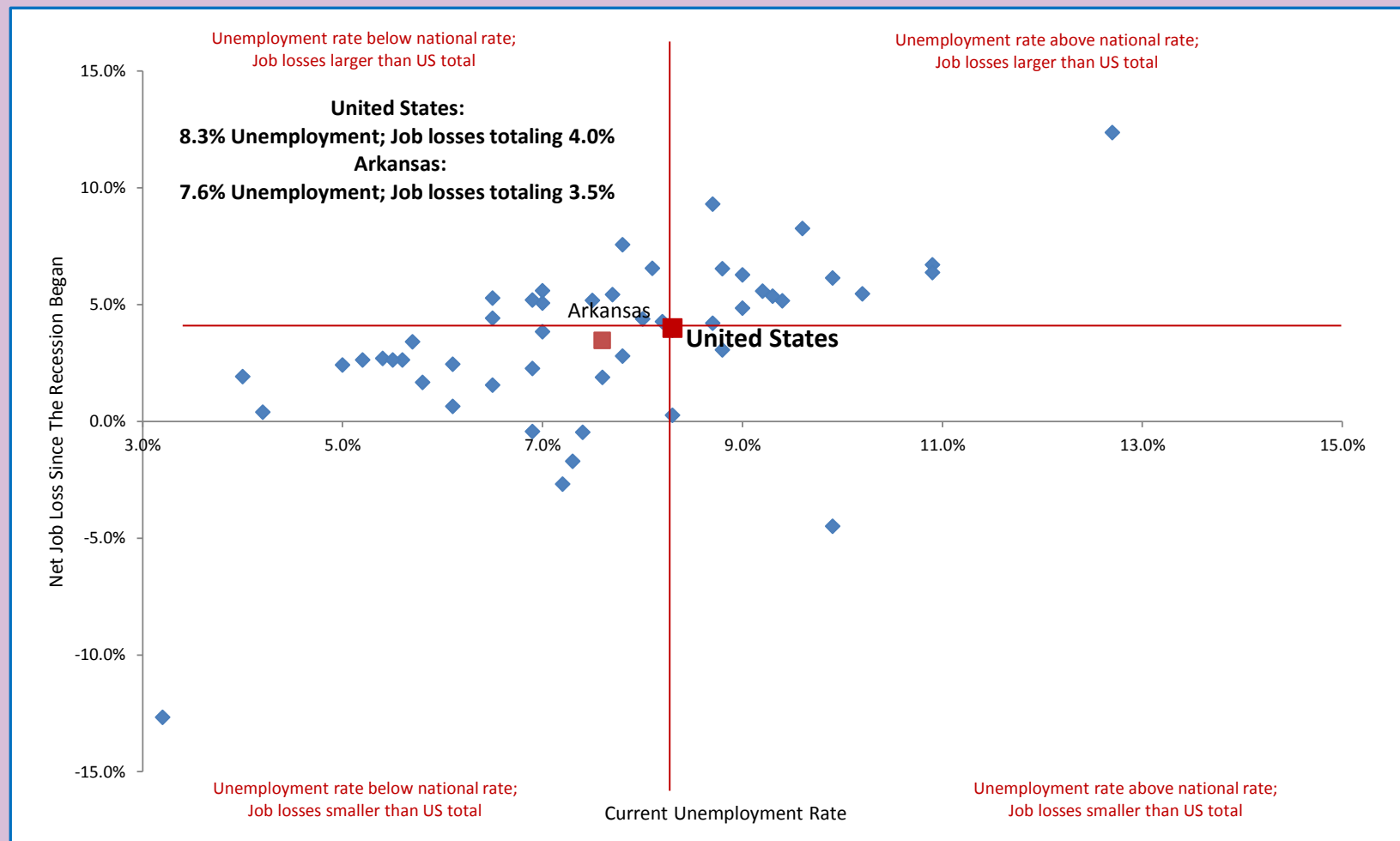
* For Arkansas-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Arkansas office: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net/>

How Does Arkansas Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Arkansas to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Arkansas since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Arkansas.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Arkansas	United States
Unemployment Rates	January 2009	6.8%	7.8%
	January 2010	7.9%	9.7%
	January 2011	8.1%	9.1%
	January 2012	7.6%	8.3%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2011	10.5%	9.4%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	8.5%	8.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	4.3%	12.1%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 42,898	\$ 52,823
	2010	\$ 38,571	\$ 49,445
Poverty Rate	2007	13.8%	12.5%
	2010	15.5%	15.1%
No Health Insurance	2007	16.1%	15.3%
	2010	18.7%	16.3%